



"Working to make Indiana businesses clean and safe, and wages fair and competitive."

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bureau of Labor Statistics Information Released Regarding Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

Indianapolis, IN October 20, 2006 – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released the results of their 2005 Survey of Occupational Injury and Illnesses. Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) Commissioner Lori A. Torres is proud to announce the outcome of the survey information. Despite an increase in the workforce in Indiana, there has been a significant and steady decrease in injuries and illnesses.

"I think the outcome of the study is proof positive that the changes put into place within the Agency have truly made a difference in the lives of Hoosiers. I am encouraged that the efforts of the Agency have made such a positive impact," comments Commissioner Torres. "Though we still have progress to make, I feel that this is a very encouraging trend."

According to the BLS survey, the rate of injuries and illness has also declined from 6.3 (per 100 workers) in 2004 to 5.8 in 2005. In manufacturing, illnesses and injuries also decreased in 2005 with 2,800 fewer injuries and illnesses over 2004. "Through the focused, strategic initiatives within IOSHA and INSafe, workers in Indiana are receiving quality training and hazards are being prevented at higher rates," remarks Commissioner Torres.

The most significant change has been in the construction industry. Construction, which has grown all over the state, has seen the rate of injury and illness drop to an historic low of 5.6. Currently, the national average is a rate of 6.3. This figure is much lower than the 2004 level of 6.0. "With future projects resulting from the Major Moves initiative passed in the 2006 legislative session, Indiana foresees an increased need for construction workers for years to come. We have a responsibility to provide factual information regarding the injuries and illnesses in the State of Indiana. We also have the power to affect change with the programs we have in place. IDOL performs over 1,500 IOSHA inspections and INSafe consultations and training programs each year," adds Commissioner Torres.

Information contained within the Survey of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses (SOII) can be found on the IDOL website at www.dol.in.gov.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Deputy Commissioner—INSafe Quin Cheatham at 317.232.2683.

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